

Employment patterns of postsecondary students

Katherine Marshall

Most postsecondary students depend on earnings from a job to cover some of the cost of their education. However, whether young workers are at school or not, youth employment can be particularly affected by economic downturns. Between October 2008 and October 2009, employment declined by about 10% among those age 15 to 24, representing 225,000 jobs and more than one-half of the total job loss during this time (LaRochelle-Côté and Gilmore 2009). With lower levels of seniority, job permanency and job protection, young workers are often the first to be laid-off. Finding a job is also more difficult as many have little or no previous work experience, even if credentials are strong.

While postsecondary students report that personal savings is the most common source of income to fund their education (79%), income from employment is ranked second (63%) (Ouellette 2006). More than one-half of students report that either savings (27%) or earnings (26%) provide the largest amount of money towards the total cost of their school year. As youth unemployment rises during economic downturns, these important sources of student income decline, which can lead to increased borrowing. "Based on previous recessions, an increase of each 1% in the rate of youth unemployment appears to lead to an increase of just over 6% in the number of student loan borrowers" (Usher and Dunn 2009). Higher student borrowing rates and debt have been linked to lower savings, investments and asset levels well after graduation (Luong 2010).

Tuition fees have risen at a faster rate than inflation since the early 1990s (Ouellette 2006). Some researchers expect the economic downturn to present a number of challenges for postsecondary institutions:

decreasing revenues; increasing costs; increasing enrolment in colleges and postgraduate studies; and increasing student aid costs (Usher and Dunn 2009). According to this scenario, students would be facing increased costs and competition for certain programs as their employment prospects fade.

Recently, more high school and postsecondary students have been working during the school year and spending more time at their jobs than in the past (Usalcas and Bowlby 2006). These findings highlight the question of whether in-school employment is a positive, negative or benign activity. Many studies have attempted to assess the impact working has on academic performance, the amount of time taken to complete studies, student retention and personal stress levels (for recent examples see DeSimone 2008, Motte and Schwartz 2009, Riggert et al. 2006, and Vickers et al. 2003). Most deduce that long hours can interfere with student outcomes, but the findings are less conclusive with regard to low and moderate levels of labour market involvement. Analyzing the school/employment relationship is complicated because of unobservable variables such as personal motivation, time management and organizational skills, and self-confidence.

This study uses the Labour Force Survey (LFS) to examine long-term school-year employment trends among youth age 15 to 24 enrolled full time in community college, CEGEP or university, with particular focus on the recent downturn and nascent recovery (see *Data source and definitions*). This is followed by a descriptive profile of the students who had a job in the 2009/2010 school year, including their average hours of work, average earnings and job characteristics. Information is also provided on long-term employment trends during the summer months (see *A summer job*).

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Data source and definitions

The **Labour Force Survey (LFS)** is a monthly household survey that collects information on labour market activity from all persons 15 years and over. Respondents are also asked whether they are currently attending school, whether it is on a part-time or full-time basis, and which type of school they attend. In order to examine the employment behaviour of students during the academic year, eight months of data from September through April are used.

The LFS adds special student-related questions during the summer months (May through August) in order to identify youth who were full-time students in March of the current year and who plan to return to school full time in the fall. These questions are only asked of respondents age 15 to 24 and the type of school is not collected. Since this study focuses on postsecondary students, information on summer employment trends includes only those age 20 to 24.

The **target population** includes all individuals age 15 to 24 who reported attending community college,

CEGEP, or university during the school year (September through April).

Students **living at home** include all those currently at home as well as those who are away at school temporarily. Students are coded as living in the household if they spend at least 30 days of the year at home. Students who do not return home for at least 30 days are included in the dwelling they occupy during the survey reference week and are labelled living away from home.

Information on **earnings** is collected from all employees for their main job and refers to pay before taxes and other deductions, and includes tips. Almost all employed students work at a paid job (98% in 2009/2010).

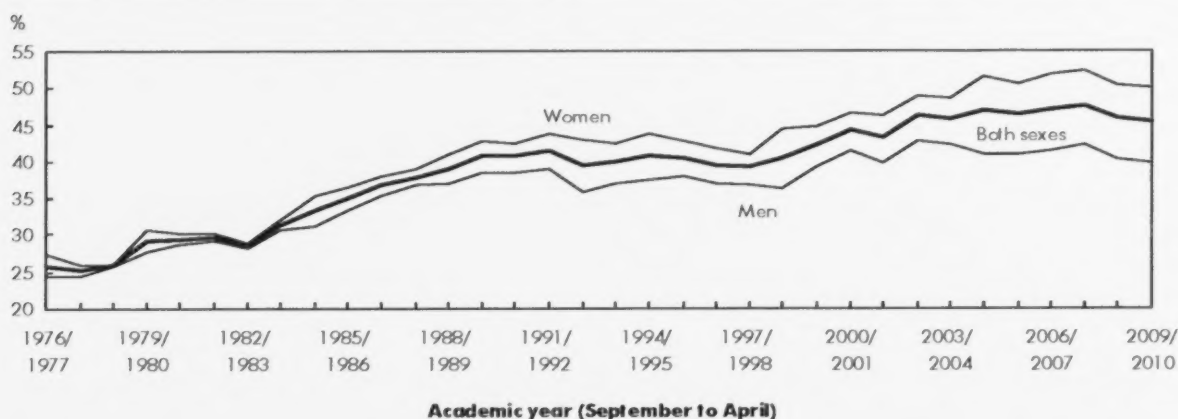
Average usual **hours** worked refers to the normal hours an employee spends at his or her job per week and does not include any overtime. However, prior to 1997, employees were to include overtime hours in their estimates if they were typical to their schedules.

More students and more of them employed

In 1976/1977, 12% of all youth age 15 to 24 (532,000) were attending some form of postsecondary education on a full-time basis—a proportion that has steadily increased over the decades. In the 2009/2010 school

year, 27% (1,193,000) of all youth were full-time postsecondary students attending community college, CEGEP or university. The increased participation in postsecondary education is tied to the rise in the knowledge-based economy and the demand for higher-skilled jobs. Another well-known trend is the increasing participation rate of young women in higher educa-

Chart A Employment rate of full-time postsecondary students peaked in 2007/2008

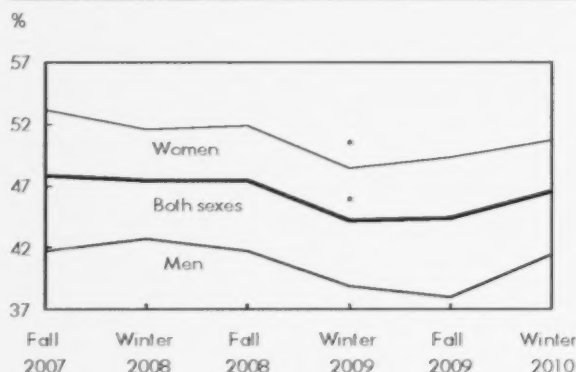


Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

tion vis-à-vis men. In 1976/1977, women represented 46% of all youth attending postsecondary school and, by 2009/2010, they represented 56% of all such students (Table 1). The proportion of full-time postsecondary students attending university has increased slightly, up from 57% in 1976/1977 to 61% in 2009/2010. Women in particular have gravitated towards attending university.

Not only has the postsecondary school attendance rate increased among youth, but so too has the proportion who combine school and paid work. Over the past 35 years, the employment rate among full-time postsecondary students increased from approximately one in four to just under one in two (Chart A). On the other hand, the summer employment rate for this population has remained stable (see *A summer job*). Since the early 1990s, a noticeable difference in employment activity has emerged between men and women, with female students participating at a higher rate than male students. The employment rate difference has continued to widen over the past decade reaching a double-digit difference for the first time in

Chart B Employment rate of full-time postsecondary students up 2 percentage points in the winter 2010 term



* significantly different with previous term at the 0.05 level
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

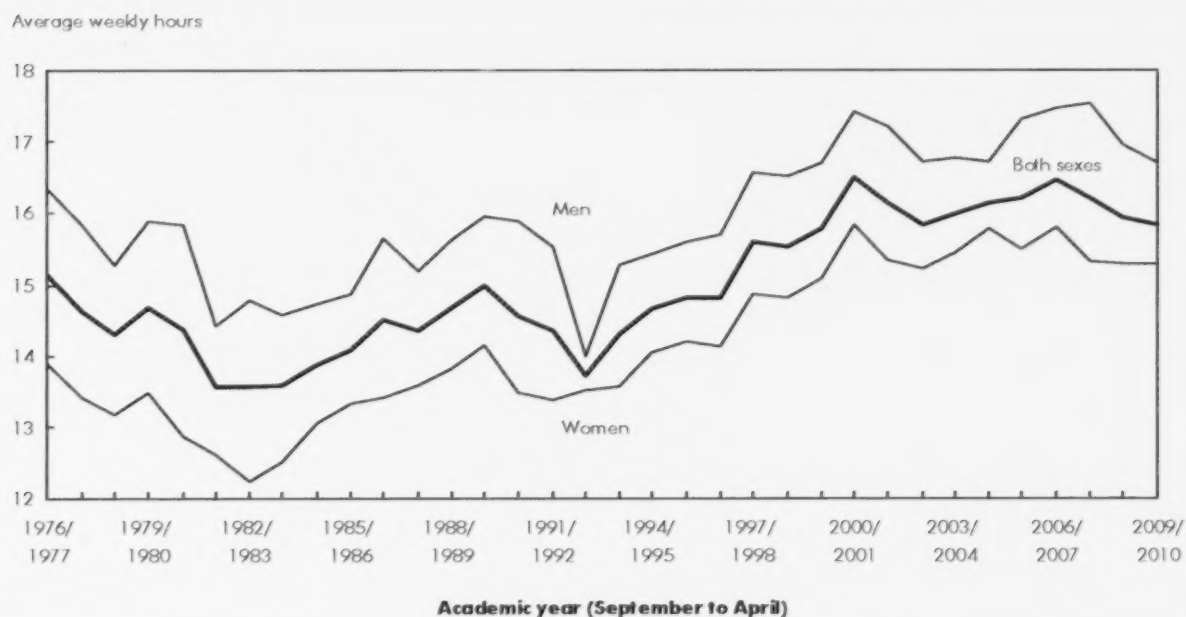
Table 1 Full-time postsecondary students aged 15 to 24 by academic year (September to April)

	1976/ 1977	1986/ 1987	1996/ 1997	2006/ 2007	2007/ 2008	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010
Total	532	713	906	1,116	1,140	1,126	1,193
	'000						
	%						
Both sexes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Men	54	50	48	45	46	44	44
Women	46	50	52	55	54	56	56
College or CEGEP	43	46	45	37	38	39	39
University	57	54	55	63	62	61	61
Men - College/CEGEP	23	23	22	17	19	18	17
Men - University	31	27	25	28	27	25	27
Women - College/CEGEP	20	24	23	20	20	21	21
Women - University	26	26	30	35	35	36	35

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

2004/2005, with 52% of full-time female students having a paid job during the school year compared with 41% of full-time male students. The gender employment trend is also evident among younger and older students (Table 6) and has also been noted in previous research using time use data (Marshall 2007).

There was a significant drop in the employment rate for all students between 2007/2008 and 2009/2010—down by 2.6 percentage points for male students and 2.4 points for female students. However, on a term-by-term basis it is obvious that the economic downturn, which started in late 2008, had a large initial impact on the employment opportunities of postsecondary students, but since

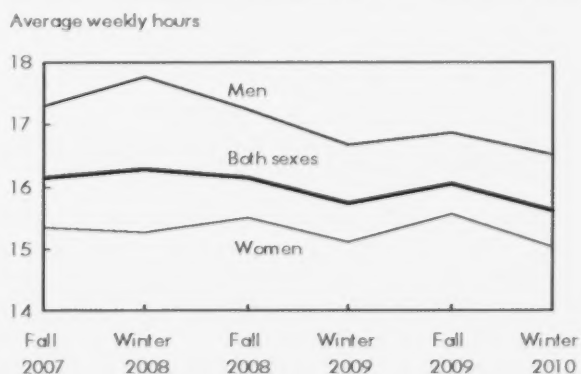
Chart C Weekly employment hours of full-time postsecondary students

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

then there have been signs of improvement (Chart B). Although the employment rate among full-time postsecondary students had fallen by 3.3 percentage points between the fall 2008 (September to December) and winter 2009 (January to April) terms, overall there have been gains in each of the following terms, particularly during winter 2010.

Employment hours have increased over time

The average employment hours of postsecondary students with jobs increased steadily until the late 1990s and have since hovered around 16 hours per week (Chart C and Table 7). Although average hours have increased, 9 in 10 students still work part time during the school year. The trend and business cycle fluctuation in student work hours have been similar for both sexes, however, men have consistently worked on average 1.5 to 2.5 more hours per week than women.

Chart D Weekly employment hours of full-time postsecondary students down slightly since recession

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

The average time spent at a job has trended downward since the recent economic downturn, and increased marginally in the fall of 2009 before dropping further in the winter of 2010. The average work hours for all students with jobs for the winter 2010 term was 15.6, the lowest it has been for about a decade (Chart D).

School-year earnings near \$6,000 throughout downturn

With average weekly employment hours dropping slightly, but not significantly, over the recent recession and hourly wages increasing from \$10.75 in 2007/2008 to \$11.80 in 2009/2010, average weekly earnings approached \$200 in 2009/2010 (Table 2). Assuming students keep their part-time jobs for the duration of the school year (from September to April or roughly 34 weeks), average income from earnings for 2009/2010 would have been about \$6,300.

Students who managed to keep or find a job during the economic downturn therefore held their ground in terms of earned income. However, the 2.5% increase in the unemployment rate suggests that, had the rate remained the same as before the downturn, an additional 30,000 students (2.5% of the 2009/2010 student population) would have been employed. Research has shown that declining student employment rates in 1982 and 1990 were followed by large increases in the number of Canada Student Loan Program clients (Usher and Dunn 2009).

The importance of student earnings in financing education was also evident in the 2002 Post-Secondary Education Participation Survey. It found that the median cost of the 2001/2002 school year for postsecondary students age 18 to 24 was \$10,900, and for students with employment earnings, \$3,000 were used from this source (Ouellette 2006).

Table 2 School-year employment, hours and earnings of full-time postsecondary students

	Total	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Average weekly hours	Average hourly earnings ¹	Average weekly earnings	Earnings during school ²	
							Employed students	All students
	'000	%	%	hours	\$	\$	\$	\$
Total students								
2007/2008	1,140	47.7	6.5	16.2	10.75	175	5,920	2,825
2008/2009	1,126	45.9	8.0	15.9	11.50	185	6,230	2,860
2009/2010	1,193	45.4*	9.0*	15.8	11.80*	185*	6,345*	2,885
Men								
2007/2008	521	42.2	8.0	17.5	11.00	195	6,570	2,770
2008/2009	493	40.3	10.3	17.0	11.80	200	6,800	2,740
2009/2010	526	39.6	11.2*	16.7*	12.15*	205	6,895	2,730
Women								
2007/2008	619	52.4	5.4	15.3	10.55	160	5,490	2,875
2008/2009	633	50.2	6.6	15.3	11.30	175	5,890	2,955
2009/2010	667	50.0	7.5*	15.3	11.55*	175*	6,015*	3,010
Aged 15 to 19								
2007/2008	417	45.8	8.1	15.0	9.10	135	4,640	2,130
2008/2009	423	44.7	10.2	14.3	9.80	140	4,770	2,130
2009/2010	439	43.5	11.9*	14.3*	10.25*	145*	5,000*	2,175
Aged 20 to 24								
2007/2008	722	48.8	5.6	16.8	11.65	195	6,670	3,255
2008/2009	703	46.6	6.7	16.9	12.50	210	7,170	3,345
2009/2010	754	46.6	7.3*	16.6	12.65*	210*	7,145*	3,330

* significantly different from the 2007/2008 school year at the 0.05 level

1. All earnings figures are in 2009 constant dollars.

2. Based on 34 weeks (September through April).

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 3 Employment and hours worked among full-time postsecondary students

	All students	Employment rate	Of those employed	
			Average weekly hours	More than 20 hours per week
School year	'000	%	hours	%
2009/2010	1,193	45	15.8	18
Men (ref.)	526	40	16.7	22
Women	667	50*	15.3*	16*
Aged 15 to 19 (ref.)	439	43	14.3	13
Aged 20 to 24	754	47*	16.6*	21*
Immigrant (ref.)	223	32	16.1	19
Canadian born	970	49*	15.8	18
Immigrant men (ref.)	111	29	17.3	23
Immigrant women	112	35	15.2*	16
Canadian born men	415	43*	16.6	22
Canadian born women	555	53*	15.3*	16*
Lives in CMA (ref.)	972	47	15.7	18
Non-CMA	221	39*	16.5*	20
Usual residence				
Living at home (ref.)	831	46	15.3	16
Not at home	361	44	17.1*	23*
College (ref.)	460	49	16.0	18
University	733	43*	15.7	18

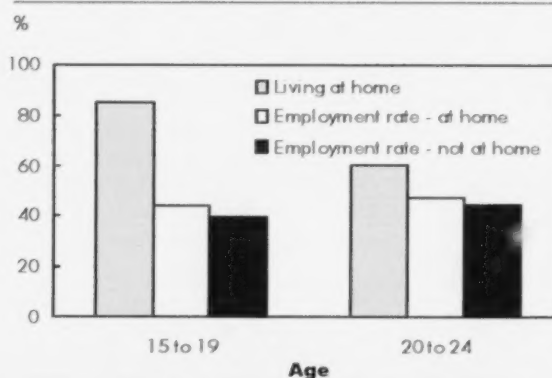
* significantly different from the reference group (ref.) at the 0.05 level
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2009/2010.

Characteristics of employed students

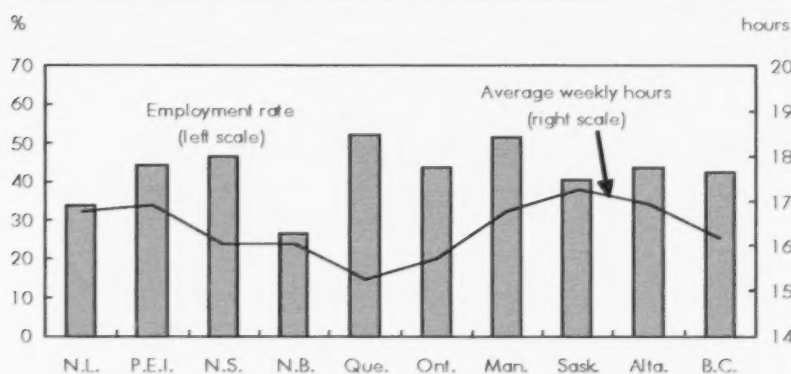
What are the personal and job characteristics of students who work? Findings have already shown that older students and women are more likely to be employed during the school year. Immigrant students are much less likely to work while going to school (32%) compared with their Canadian-born counterparts (49%) (Table 3). Although the gender difference in the employment rate holds within the two groups, for example, immigrant women have a higher employment rate than immigrant men (35% versus 29%), both rates are still less than that of Canadian-born female (53%) and male students (43%). Going to school in a large urban centre, which offers more job opportunities, also increases the chances of being employed (47%) compared to students living in smaller centres (39%). Living at home does not appear to increase student employment rates. Living

Since employed male students worked about two extra hours per week, and earned more per hour than their female counterparts (\$12.15 per hour in 2009/2010 versus \$11.55), their weekly and school-year earnings were higher. Estimated school-year earnings were approximately \$6,900 for men and \$6,000 for women.

Compared with students age 15 to 19, those age 20 to 24 were more likely to work while going to school, work longer hours and have higher wages. The potential school-year earnings by age group range widely from approximately \$5,000 for younger students to over \$7,000 for older students. The financial consequences for unemployed older students are therefore much greater than those for younger students. Furthermore, older students are also less likely to depend on their parents for financial assistance.

Chart E Younger students' tend to live at home, but place of residence not strongly linked to employment rate

1. Full-time postsecondary in 2009/2010 school year.
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2009/2010.

Chart F School year¹ employment rate highest in Manitoba and Quebec

1. Full-time postsecondary in 2009/2010 school year.
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, 2009/2010.

at home' refers to students who spend at least 30 days of the year living with at least one parent, therefore students who live in a school residence and return home for the summer fall into this category.¹ Although the proportion of students living at home varies considerably by age, with 85% of those age 15 to 19 doing so, compared with 61% of 20- to 24-year-olds, there is no significant difference in the employment rate by age and place of residence (Chart F). Finally, a higher proportion of college students (49%) than university students (43%) have a job while attending school.

There was less than a two-hour variation in the average weekly hours worked among all student characteristics considered. Although immigrant men had the lowest employment rate, those with a job had the highest average work week—17.3 hours. In terms of longer hours, less than one in five

employed students (18%) worked more than 20 hours per week. Working at least 20 hours per week has been shown to be an important threshold, with some studies

indicating that long hours can interfere with postsecondary performance and student retention.

Finally, provincial employment rates and average hours worked are consistent with historical trends (Usalcas and Bowlby 2006). During the 2009/2010 school year, both Manitoba and Quebec had school-year employment rates above 50% and New Brunswick (27%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (34%) had the lowest average rates (Chart F). Average weekly hours ranged from a high of 17.3 in Saskatchewan to a low of 15.2 in Quebec.

At your service

Of the 542,000 postsecondary students who were employed during the 2009/2010 school year, almost all (96%) had a job in the service sector, compared with 78% of the total non-postsecondary-student employed population (Table 4).

Table 4 Industrial distribution of employed students¹ and non-students aged 15 and over

	Total employed		Non-students		Students ¹	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
All industries	16,802	100	16,260	100	542	100
Goods	3,660	22	3,640	22	20	4
Services	13,143	78	12,621	78	522	96
Retail trade	2,035	12	1,842	11	194	36
Food and beverage stores	509	3	458	3	51	9
Clothing stores	222	1	178	1	44	8
Other retail	1,304	8	1,206	7	98	18
Education services	1,270	8	1,217	7	53	10
Health care and social assistance	1,982	12	1,947	12	35	6
Arts, entertainment and recreation	376	2	343	2	33	6
Accommodation and food services	1,042	6	935	6	108	20
Restaurants and eateries	851	5	751	5	100	18
Other	191	1	184	1	8	1
Other services	6,436	38	6,336	39	100	18

1. Full-time postsecondary aged 15 to 24.
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, September 2009 to April 2010.

A summer job

Many students start to think about where to apply for a summer job well before the second term of school is finished. The four months are a narrow but good opportunity for many to gain useful work experience, and, more importantly, to earn money to put towards their continuing education. Competition can be stiff as tens of thousands of students descend on the job market all at the same time.

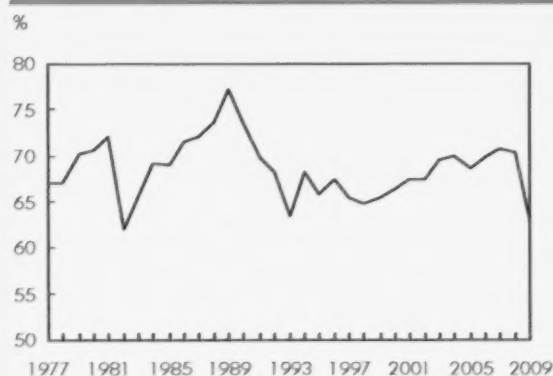
Beginning in 1997, the federal government created the Youth Employment Strategy (YES) to help youth find employment and gain workplace experience. One part of YES includes the Summer Work Experience program, which is aimed specifically at secondary and postsecondary students returning to full-time studies in the fall. The program offers wage subsidies to employers to encourage student hiring and support the operation of summer employment offices (see HRSDC 2010 for more information).

The LFS tracks summer employment trends of students by asking all respondents age 15 to 24 two additional student-related questions during all interviews that take place between May and August (see *Data source and definitions*). The first question asks whether the respondent had been a full-time student in March of that year, and if "yes," whether he or she expects to return to school full time in the fall. The data in this section refer to all those who responded positively to both questions. Furthermore, since the type of school in March is unknown (high school or postsecondary) the sample is limited to those age 20 to 24—ensuring that the majority of respondents are college or university students (the target population of this study).

While the employment rate during the school year has increased steadily over the past several decades for all age groups, the summer employment rate for full-time postsecondary students age 20 to 24 has consistently averaged around 70% (Chart G). Similar to the overall employment rate, the employment rate for students during the summer moves in tandem with the increases and decreases of the business cycle. The decline between the summers of 2008 and 2009, down from 70% to 63%, was the second largest year-to-year drop since 1981 and 1982, when it fell from 72% to 62%.

As seen earlier, students age 20 to 24 who worked during the school year earned, on average, roughly \$7,000 in 2009/2010. Hourly earnings are roughly the same during both the school year and the summer, but the proportion working full time more than quadruples (up from 12% during the 2009/2010 school year to 57% during the summer of 2009²). Therefore, due to increased weekly hours, the same cohort earned roughly the same amount (\$6,700) during the summer of 2009 (Table 5). Although summer earnings do not cover the total expenses of another year of schooling, they can help offset some of the costs. The savings rate is also probably quite high for the students who return home for the summer, avoiding the cost of room and board.

Chart G Student summer employment rate¹ fell by over 7 percentage points during the most recent recession



1. Full-time postsecondary students aged 20 to 24 returning in the fall.
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Despite the drop in average weekly hours between the summers of 2008 and 2009 (from 30.0 to 28.8), total summer earnings were similar in both years because of the slight increase in hourly wages (from \$12.40 to \$12.85). Although those with a job fared about the same in both years, it is important to keep in mind that there were roughly 40,000 fewer students employed during the summer of 2009.

The summer employment rate for students fell between 2008 and 2009 in most provinces, but in both years the Atlantic provinces had higher-than-average levels (except for Newfoundland and Labrador), as did Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Employed students in these provinces had higher-than-average weekly hours as well, and with the western provinces boasting the highest hourly earnings, students in Alberta and Saskatchewan were able to earn roughly \$9,000 in the summer of 2009.

Note: While this article was in production, the final 2010 data for summer student employment (May through August) were released. Key findings show the employment and unemployment rates for postsecondary students age 20 to 24 to be 66.4% and 8.3%, respectively. Average weekly hours worked were 27.7 and average hourly earnings were \$12.80. Finally, the full-time employment rate for students during the summer of 2010 was 51.8%.

A summer job (concluded)**Table 5 Summer employment among returning full-time postsecondary students aged 20 to 24, by province**

	Total	Employment rate	Unemployment rate	Average weekly hours	Average hourly earnings ¹	Average weekly earnings	Earnings during summer ²	
							Employed students	All students
	'000	%	%	hours	\$	\$	\$	\$
Canada								
2008	647	70.3	9.0	30.0	12.40	370	6,690	4,705
2009	658	63.0	13.6	28.8	12.85	370	6,670	4,205
Newfoundland and Labrador								
2008	10	59.6	12.8	32.9	11.45	375	6,770	4,035
2009	9	58.3	12.4	31.2	11.55	360	6,475	3,775
Prince Edward Island								
2008	2	85.0	2.8	34.8	10.80	375	6,755	5,745
2009	2	72.1	14.7	33.8	10.85	365	6,590	4,750
Nova Scotia								
2008	17	80.9	4.4	32.7	10.25	335	6,020	4,865
2009	14	69.9	13.4	32.3	11.25	365	6,545	4,575
New Brunswick								
2008	12	78.1	6.6	32.9	10.95	360	6,485	5,060
2009	12	74.8	13.7	34.2	11.60	395	7,125	5,330
Quebec								
2008	159	71.0	8.4	28.9	12.30	355	6,380	4,535
2009	149	65.9	12.1	28.1	12.50	350	6,325	4,165
Ontario								
2008	285	68.4	11.5	29.4	11.50	340	6,080	4,160
2009	303	59.1	17.5	27.6	12.40	345	6,170	3,645
Manitoba								
2008	19	83.9	3.5	31.8	12.55	400	7,190	6,035
2009	16	75.8	8.5	30.8	12.10	375	6,710	5,090
Saskatchewan								
2008	14	79.4	3.6	34.5	13.20	455	8,195	6,500
2009	13	73.7	4.2	33.3	14.90	495	8,935	6,585
Alberta								
2008	52	81.2	4.0	32.7	16.05	525	9,470	7,690
2009	59	65.7	8.1	32.2	15.45	495	8,945	5,875
British Columbia								
2008	79	60.9	8.3	29.1	13.90	405	7,280	4,435
2009	81	63.4	8.7	28.8	13.70	395	7,095	4,495

1. All earnings figures are in 2009 constant dollars.

2. Based on 18 weeks (May through August).

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Retail trade, in particular, accounted for over one-third of all student employment: 32% for male students and 38% for female students (data not shown). Food and beverage (e.g., grocery stores) and clothing stores account for one-half of the retail trade jobs. The remaining retail employment includes such categories as general merchandise stores, health and personal care stores (e.g., pharmacies and drug stores) and sporting goods, hobby, book and music stores. Retail employment is conducive for students since it often offers part-time hours, evening or weekend shifts, and minimal required experience. From September 2009 to April 2010 there were 2.0 million jobs in retail overall. With some 200,000 students working in this field, their employment represents 10% of all jobs in the retail trade industry.

Restaurants and other eateries also offer many student job opportunities, with 18% working in this industry, compared to 5% of other workers. Students also had a higher-than-average representation in the education services and arts, entertainment and recreation industries, where many work as research assistants and instructors in recreation and sport, respectively.

Conclusion

Although most students have consistently worked during the summer months, employment patterns during the school year have changed substantially. Since the late 1990s, almost one in two full-time postsecondary students have been employed during the academic school year, up from one in four in the late 1970s. At the same time, hours at work rose and then levelled off, averaging around 16 per week over the past decade.

In the 2009/2010 school year, not only were there proportionally more women age 15 to 24 attending postsecondary school than men (56% versus 44%), but they were also more likely to be employed (50% versus 40%). However, on average, employed male students worked longer weekly hours than their female counterparts—16.7 compared with 15.3. Older students and Canadian-born students were also significantly more likely to work while attending school.

Almost all employed students worked in the service sector (96%), with 36% in the retail trade and 18% in food services.

Students have not been immune to the recent economic downturn as they experienced a drop in their employment rate and average hours worked. The full-time postsecondary student employment rate fell by over 3 percentage points between the fall 2008 term and the winter 2009 term. Although the rate increased to 46.5% during the winter 2010 term, the rate is still lower than the fall 2007 term rate of 47.9%.

Many students rely on employment earnings to help fund their education (Ouellette 2006). The estimated school-year earnings of those with a job were about \$6,000 before and during the economic downturn (2007/2008 to 2009/2010). Even though students with a job managed to hold their ground in terms of earnings, there were an estimated 30,000 fewer students with jobs over the period.

The summer of 2009 was the worst labour market for postsecondary students age 20 to 24 since the recession years of 1982 and 1993. Between the summers of 2008 and 2009, the employment rate dropped from 70.3% to 63.0%, the unemployment rate increased from 9.0% to 13.6%, and the percentage with a full-time job dropped from 60.7% to 56.6%. It is particularly difficult for students to be jobless during the summer due to the potential earnings loss. Students who were employed during the summer of 2009 earned \$6,700 on average.

The recent declines in the school-year and summer student employment rates due to the economic downturn, and subsequent increase in the unemployment rate, suggests more students would have been working at a paid job if they could have found one. However, most college and university programs last for several years, and with signs that student employment is starting to recover, students wanting work may soon have a better chance of being employed again.

Perspectives

Table 6 Employment rate of full-time postsecondary students aged 15 to 24

	Aged 15 to 24			Aged 15 to 19			Aged 20 to 24		
	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
	%								
Academic year									
1976/1977	26	24	27	25	25	25	26	24	30
1977/1978	25	24	26	24	26	23	26	23	29
1978/1979	26	26	26	25	25	25	27	26	27
1979/1980	29	28	31	29	27	29	30	28	32
1980/1981	29	29	30	30	30	30	29	28	31
1981/1982	30	29	30	29	29	29	30	29	31
1982/1983	29	28	29	27	28	27	30	29	31
1983/1984	31	31	32	31	31	30	32	30	34
1984/1985	33	31	35	31	30	33	34	32	38
1985/1986	35	33	37	34	32	36	36	34	37
1986/1987	37	35	38	36	36	36	37	35	39
1987/1988	38	37	39	37	38	37	38	36	41
1988/1989	39	37	41	38	36	40	39	37	42
1989/1990	41	39	43	39	38	41	42	39	45
1990/1991	41	39	43	40	39	41	41	38	44
1991/1992	41	39	44	41	39	42	42	39	45
1992/1993	40	36	43	37	36	38	41	35	47
1993/1994	40	37	42	37	33	39	42	39	45
1994/1995	41	38	44	37	33	40	43	40	46
1995/1996	40	38	43	38	36	40	42	39	44
1996/1997	39	37	42	35	34	37	42	39	45
1997/1998	39	37	41	35	35	35	41	38	44
1998/1999	41	36	44	37	32	41	43	38	46
1999/2000	42	39	45	40	36	43	43	41	46
2000/2001	44	41	47	41	39	42	46	43	49
2001/2002	43	40	46	42	39	45	44	40	47
2002/2003	46	43	49	45	43	47	46	42	50
2003/2004	46	42	49	43	40	46	47	43	50
2004/2005	47	41	52	45	39	50	48	42	52
2005/2006	46	41	52	44	40	48	47	41	52
2006/2007	47	42	52	45	40	49	49	42	54
2007/2008	48	42	52	46	40	51	49	44	53
2008/2009	46	40	50	45	38	49	47	41	51
2009/2010	45	40	50	43	37	48	47	41	51

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 7 Average weekly hours of full-time postsecondary students aged 15 to 24

	Aged 15 to 24			Aged 15 to 19			Aged 20 to 24		
	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women	Both sexes	Men	Women
Average weekly hours									
Academic year									
1976/1977	15.2	16.3	13.9	13.9	14.8	13.0	16.3	17.5	14.8
1977/1978	14.6	15.8	13.4	13.6	14.1	13.1	15.5	17.3	13.7
1978/1979	14.3	15.3	13.2	13.3	14.2	12.5	15.2	16.1	14.0
1979/1980	14.7	15.9	13.5	13.2	13.6	12.9	16.0	17.6	14.1
1980/1981	14.4	15.8	12.9	13.3	14.7	12.0	15.5	16.8	13.9
1981/1982	13.6	14.4	12.6	12.5	13.3	11.8	14.5	15.3	13.5
1982/1983	13.6	14.8	12.2	12.1	13.1	11.3	14.7	16.1	13.1
1983/1984	13.6	14.6	12.5	12.6	13.4	12.0	14.4	15.5	13.0
1984/1985	13.9	14.7	13.1	12.4	12.9	11.9	14.9	15.8	13.9
1985/1986	14.1	14.9	13.3	12.9	13.3	12.7	14.9	15.8	13.9
1986/1987	14.5	15.6	13.4	13.5	13.8	13.3	15.2	16.7	13.5
1987/1988	14.4	15.2	13.6	13.6	14.2	13.0	14.9	15.9	14.0
1988/1989	14.7	15.6	13.8	13.3	14.1	12.7	15.7	16.6	14.8
1989/1990	15.0	16.0	14.2	13.7	14.6	13.1	15.9	16.8	15.0
1990/1991	14.6	15.9	13.5	13.6	15.0	12.6	15.2	16.4	14.1
1991/1992	14.4	15.5	13.4	13.0	13.9	12.3	15.3	16.6	14.1
1992/1993	13.7	14.0	13.5	12.8	12.6	12.9	14.3	14.8	13.9
1993/1994	14.3	15.3	13.6	13.2	13.6	12.9	15.0	16.0	14.0
1994/1995	14.7	15.4	14.0	13.5	14.0	13.1	15.3	16.1	14.6
1995/1996	14.8	15.6	14.2	13.3	13.9	12.9	15.7	16.4	15.0
1996/1997	14.8	15.7	14.1	13.6	14.5	12.9	15.4	16.3	14.7
1997/1998	15.6	16.6	14.9	13.4	13.9	13.0	16.6	17.8	15.8
1998/1999	15.5	16.5	14.8	14.3	15.2	13.7	16.1	17.1	15.3
1999/2000	15.8	16.7	15.1	14.4	15.3	13.8	16.5	17.4	15.8
2000/2001	16.5	17.4	15.8	15.1	15.7	14.7	17.2	18.2	16.4
2001/2002	16.1	17.2	15.4	14.5	15.0	14.2	17.0	18.4	16.0
2002/2003	15.8	16.7	15.2	14.7	15.4	14.2	16.5	17.5	15.8
2003/2004	16.0	16.8	15.4	14.5	15.1	14.1	16.8	17.7	16.2
2004/2005	16.1	16.7	15.8	14.8	15.1	14.6	16.9	17.5	16.4
2005/2006	16.2	17.3	15.5	14.6	15.2	14.3	17.0	18.4	16.2
2006/2007	16.5	17.5	15.8	15.1	15.6	14.8	17.2	18.5	16.4
2007/2008	16.2	17.5	15.3	15.0	15.7	14.6	16.8	18.5	15.7
2008/2009	15.9	17.0	15.3	14.3	14.8	14.1	16.9	18.1	16.0
2009/2010	15.8	16.7	15.3	14.3	14.9	14.0	16.6	17.6	16.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

■ Notes

1. Due mainly to methodological differences, the Labour Force Survey tends to estimate a smaller proportion of young adults living at home compared to the census.
2. The full-time employment rate for students during the summer dropped from 63% in 2007 to 61% in 2008, and to 57% in 2009.

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